

that usually goes with the phrase, dangerous to others is dangerous to himself or herself. Why would we not want to pick up that kind of person also, I guess? I mean I understand the greater degree of danger to the public, but shouldn't we also be considering the danger of the person to himself if he's suicidal in nature?

SENATOR WESELY: You know, I'll tell you, we did have that very question, Senator Beutler. And what it came up to is, if somebody's walked off the grounds and they're a danger to others, they need to let the public know about that. And we can't do that right now. If they're a danger to themselves, the feeling from the Regional Center was that these folks are not going to harm somebody else and they most likely know where they're going to go, typically. What they found is the walkaways, when they're a danger to themselves, they'll go to their own home or family home and they typically can track them down fairly quickly, and they haven't had that problem. And so that's, that's why we made the distinction. I don't know if that's an adequate explanation, but that's what I recall in our discussion on it.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Is there...is there a policy reason...is it because they did not want to alarm the public somehow? Or these kind of...

SENATOR WESELY: There is a privacy issue on that. If they're not a danger to others, and they're in there to protect themselves, there's a privacy line that we were concerned about crossing constitutionally, frankly, as well. So there was a practical reason and a constitutional reason that we drew this line. And if I could go on, if you don't mind.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Sure.

SENATOR WESELY: This is a critical issue. We did spend a great deal of time negotiating this out. And between the police officers and the mental health advocates and the Regional Center, and this is the comfort zone that everybody could reach a consensus on.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wesely, would you like to close on this